

THIS SHOW ALL ABOUT CHILDREN

The New York Child Welfare Exhibit to Open Next Week.

RESULTS OF 2 YEARS WORK

The Most Complete Picture Ever Given of the Life of a City Child.

Next week at the Seventy-first Regiment Armory, at Thirty-fourth street and Park avenue, New Yorkers will have the chance to see a remarkable exhibition. It will be the most complete showing ever attempted of the life of a city child. Its official title is the New York Child Welfare Exhibit. It will continue from January 18 to February 12 and will occupy all of the 45,000 square feet of floor space in the armory. Week days it will be open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. and on Sundays from 2 to 10 P. M.

With the exception of two days in each week it will be absolutely free. Mondays and Thursdays an admission of 25 cents will be charged, not for the purpose of making money but in order that persons wishing to make a study of the exhibition may do so unhampered by crowds.

Probably no enterprise of a similar nature has been able to show so representative a list of committee names. The chairman of the executive committee is John Sherman Hoyt. The chairman of the women's committee is Mrs. J. Borden Harriman. On the general committee are such men and women as President Butler of Columbia University, Chancellor MacCracken, Frederic R. Coudert, Gilbert Colgate, Cleveland H. Dodge, Robert W. de Forest, R. Fulton Cutting, William Jay Schieffelin, William Fellows Morgan, E. R. A. Seligman, John H. Finley, Miss Helen M. Gould and Mrs. James Terry Gardiner.

The exhibition committee has William G. McArdoo for its chairman and includes



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"EARTH BOUND." BY LOUIS POTTER.
To be shown at the Child Welfare Exhibit.

ballet "Coppelia"; "Summer," an aesthetic ballet; "Autumn," the shepherd dance from "Henry VIII." and "Winter," the Czardas. The play will be under the direction of Miss Madeline Stevens. A boys' club day is planned on which representatives of all the boys' clubs in the city will be present to watch floor events by the boys' brigades, Boy Scouts, Y. M. C. A. and so on.

One of the most interesting features of the exhibition will be the programme of conferences. Men and women of

It is estimated by the investigators that probably at least 800 of these children had an entirely inadequate meal. The dependence on coffee, which is classed by experts as an actual poison for growing children, is almost universal. Among these 1,000 children 500 were found to use coffee once a day only, 393 others used it twice a day and 170 three times a day.

Out of another group of 2,169 children 58 per cent. drank coffee and 1 per cent. drank milk. In 210 cases of malnutrition 175 had tea or coffee, generally coffee, once a day and 25 had it two or three times a day, leaving only 10 out of the 210 children who did not drink it at all. Some of these children go to school hungry. Were it not for the free luncheon given them by the city they would go home hungry too. In many of the homes there is nothing for luncheon, and in many others the mother goes out to work and there is no one to prepare a meal. In one school alone there were 200 children who had no one at home to get lunch for them at noon. Out of 258 families 60 had no prepared luncheon.

Many of these children who are so inadequately supplied with the food they need are just as short of the other great requisite of the growing child, sleep. Among the questions sent to the public schools to be answered by the children were the following:



Photo by Lewis W. Hine.
CARRYING WORK HOME.

1. What do you do when you go home from school?
2. How long do you have for play?
3. How long do you have to study your lessons?
4. Do you belong to any library?
5. How many books have you read this term?
6. What newspapers do you read in your home?
7. What time do you get up in the morning?
8. What time do you go to bed at night?

Here are the facts as shown in the replies of seven little girls from one class. Only one of them was over 10 years old. Six of them worked at tying feathers, that is, making willow plumes, after school. One, a twelve-year-old, sewed buttons and made buttonholes on babies' dresses, receiving five cents a dozen for the work. As for play, three of the seven calmly say that they have no time to play, one has an hour, two have half an hour and one says "after I have finished one feather I can play on the street."

Four have half an hour for study, two have an hour and one has "one minute." Not one of the seven belongs to a library. One hasn't read any book at all. The others have read one or two. Only one reads a newspaper. Two are in bed from 9 to 6, one from 10 to 5:30, one from 8 to 5:30, one from 11 to 6, one from 10 to 5 and one from 9 to 4:30. Not one of them has therefore an adequate amount of rest.

One of the most interesting things to be shown in the exhibit is a collection of social maps of six selected districts of the city. They give the location of all the amusements and the social and educational facilities. For instance, one of these maps, covering a district which has nine miles of streets, a population

of 35,000 and a school registration of 5,342 is shown to have:

Saloons.....	119	Dance Halls.....	2
Hotels.....	82	Gas Tanks.....	3
Candy Shops.....	7	Churches.....	13
Restaurants.....	66	Benevolent Institu-	
Stables.....	47	tions.....	3
Factories.....	53	Parochial Schools.....	5
Pawn Shops.....	2	Public Schools.....	5
Theatres.....	1	Public Libraries.....	1
Meeting Halls.....	1	Settlements.....	2
Pool Rooms.....	1	Vacant Lots.....	1

The one vacant lot in this town of 35,000 inhabitants may seem an unimportant item, but when a person realizes that this one lot constitutes the sole space, aside from the streets and the roofs, where over five thousand children can play, it looms pretty big, or rather it appears infinitesimally small. The time was when New York had a considerable area not occupied by buildings. But the Child Welfare Exhibit has got up a vacant lot map which while encouraging to real estate speculators is a pretty dismal document from the children's point of view.

It is not surprising, though it may be saddening enough, that more children are arrested merely for playing than for any actual misdemeanor. The offence which gets most of the boys into the

exhibit. Probably more than half these film shows are dependent on the patronage of children.

The cheap theatres too draw almost 25 per cent. of their audiences from the boys and girls. Out of 1,400,000 persons attending these cheap theatres every week in winter 250,000 are children. The high priced theatres reach so small a proportion of young folks under 16 that the percentage is negligible. Vaudeville houses attract more and the burlesque houses, whose entertainment is classed by the committee as "most undesirable," reach a large number, especially of boys.

An investigation of dance halls and their influence on the children reveals another problem. The dancing academies of Manhattan teach annually 100,000 pupils, of whom 45 per cent. are under 16 and 90 per cent. are under 21. Half of these academies are rated as undesirable places for young women.

Dance halls where public dancing is carried on without instruction have an attendance of between four and five millions a year, and fully two-thirds of these places are rated as undesirable. Almost all the settlements provide dancing classes, which invariably are crowded and which are about as adequate when it comes to satisfying the apparently insatiable



Photo by Lewis W. Hine.
NURSERY OF ONE BABY.

his desire of New York young folks to dance as the famous broom of Mrs. Partington was equal to sweeping back the tide.

Perhaps less picturesque than the showing made of the street life of New York children, but quite as vital and interesting, is the work of the committee on homes. In addition to pictures of actual home conditions, the committee will have a model three room flat furnished at a cost of \$100. There will be a child's room and also a family living room arranged with a view to giving the child in a city apartment some provision for comfort and pleasure.

Here it may be explained that the exhibit does not deal solely with conditions surrounding the children of the poor. Well to do fathers and mothers, even the very rich themselves, know that the problem of bringing up children in New York is bigger than their income, no matter how swollen that may be. In their attempt to solve that problem they will find plenty to interest them and not a little to help them in this exhibition.

In the model rooms there will be demonstrations to show how music, books, pictures, nature study and play may be made a part of every family's life. The subjects of proper food and clothing will be made practical and attractive by the use of actual materials. Model garments for children of all ages have been made. The places where good materials can be bought at reasonable prices have been listed. A toy shop filled with toys approved by experts will show the educational value of properly selected playthings. There will be a demonstration of how children can be taught to make their own toys.

One room will be furnished exclusively with box furniture, that is, with chairs, table, desk and so on, "all made from boxes." There will be a continual round of demonstrations of cooking, with special regard to foods for children. Many of the demonstrators in the various departments are college women graduates who have volunteered to help simply because they have been so impressed with the importance of the things to be shown.

The committee on libraries and museums will reproduce an actual library for children and will show the books to be chosen. A librarian will be there to explain how to induce children to read good books. The work of the various city museums in the education of New York children will be shown.

It is rather interesting, by the way, to know that the Sunday attendance at the museums is overwhelmingly larger than that on week days. While the museums are open on Sundays only one-tenth the total number of hours they are open on the six other days, the attendance on Sunday is one-third the total for the six week days.

The committee on schools will cover the whole network of education, not only what the Board of Education is doing in the public schools but the work of trade schools and other independent organizations. There will be moving pictures as well as actual classes of children engaged in shop work, kindergarten methods and so forth. Some of the educational activities will be covered by the committee on settlements. In fact, as the settlements affect every side of child life in the slums, their exhibit will be almost more comprehensive than that of any other committee.

The committee on associations and clubs, with an astonishing lot of facts about boy life, from the doings of the



Photo by Lewis W. Hine.
TENDING STAND.

street gang to that of the Sunday school class or the Junior Y. M. C. A., is loaded with telling material. It is this committee which will provide the programme for the boys' club day.

The committee on churches, temples and Sunday schools will cover the religious influences affecting children. These influences do not appear to have got a compelling grip on a very big proportion of them inasmuch as out of 1,000,000 children in New York only 350,000 attend any kind of Sunday school, Protestant, Catholic or Jewish.

The committee on laws and administration will show the workings of the children's court in this city and in other cities as well. The New York Children's Court has had to take a lot of criticism, which has included not only the building in which it is held, but the Judges who sit on its bench. The injustice of much of this criticism is apparent

go on to luncheon anyway. And the lawyer, who was a wideawake young politician with an unexpected Sunday school quirk in his makeup got them both interested in the subject of showing up what was being done with and for the city child. They decided to branch out a little from the original Sunday school idea. But all the same they planned to have their nice little exhibition in April, 1908.

The secretary finally got three months leave of absence. Then he got a year's leave. And all the time the thing grew bigger and broader. More men and women became interested. The money for a thorough investigation was forthcoming. John D. Rockefeller and the Sage Foundation agreed to meet 20 per cent. of the total expenses.

As those expenses have been something like \$70,000, their assistance has been very material. The members of the various



THEIR PLAYGROUND.

from the facts which the committee will present. The New York court deals with four times as many cases as the other courts average, while its appropriation is only a fraction of what others receive. In Chicago, for instance, the appropriation figures out at \$30 a child dealt with by the Juvenile Court. In New York it is \$8 a child.

The committee on work and wages has covered the subject of child labor conditions in factories, street trades and tenement home work. The law is supposed to regulate the problem, but the investigators have found that it is systematically evaded, especially in the homes where many children work, as their own statements show, much of the time that they are out of school.

The committee on health will show practical methods of reducing the 16,000 infant deaths a year in New York city, how to help the 70 per cent. of public school children who have physical defects, how to deal with the problem of pure milk supply, how to prevent tuberculosis among children and so on. The committee on public and private philanthropy will take up such work as the care of special classes of children, such as the feeble minded, epileptic, crippled, blind and deaf.

One of the most interesting things about the undertaking is the way it has grown out of a small beginning. Two years ago a young minister called up a Y. M. C. A. secretary and asked him to luncheon. The invitation was accepted, but when the two started out together the minister instead of going to some nearby restaurant headed for the downtown financial district.

"Where are you going?" demanded the secretary.

"Well, I want you to meet a young lawyer, a friend of mine. The fact is, he wants to talk with you about getting up a Sunday school exhibit."

"Well, we might as well stop right here," said the secretary. "I've no time to get up a Sunday school exhibit and my own work is bigger than any Sunday school."

But the minister prevailed on him to

committees have shown the depth of their enthusiasm by contributing about \$18,000 to the budget. The rest has come by voluntary contribution from men and women who have realized that a big thing was being done.

That is the phrase everybody uses in regard to it, "a big thing." And the phrase seems to have been earned by the results of two years of hard work. As a result of those two years labor an absolutely comprehensive picture of New York child life can be studied by visitors to the armory.

The exhibit is planned with a view to arousing and informing public and private sentiment and with the hope that it will lead to the following definite results: the use of schools as social centers, more playgrounds, reserved streets where children may play without danger from traffic (in ten months 67 children were killed and 106 seriously injured by wheeled traffic in New York streets, automobiles being responsible for most of these accidents), more libraries, better adaptation of the school system to the real needs of the children, more settlements, clubs, self-sustaining recreation centres, socially managed dance halls and picture shows, a more intelligent home life, reduction of infant mortality and diseases, larger use of the resources of the various churches and temples, probation and physical examination in the Juvenile Court, rural cottage institutions for children, placing out instead of institutional care for children and better enforcement of laws for the protection of children.

This sounds like a pretty big order in the way of results hoped for. But the exhibit is a pretty big thing itself.

80,000 Tons of Dutch Cheese.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports. The production of cheese in Holland is a large industry. The latest figures show its annual production to amount to 176,000,000 pounds, of which two-thirds are exported. In addition to the purity mark the cheese will be marked to show where and when it was made and stamped or labeled.



PLAYING IN THE GUTTER.

among its members John W. Alexander, the artist, and Frederic Thompson. Jacob Riis is chairman of the committee on streets. Three hundred persons are enrolled on the twenty committees which have carried out the vast amount of research and handling of material. Twenty paid investigators have been employed and several times as many volunteer workers have contributed information.

It has taken two years to bring the undertaking to the point where those behind it were ready to give the results to the public. The further they went with it the bigger it grew. But they feel now that there's a precious little they don't know about the lives of New York children. Some of the things they have found out are surprising, some are tragic, some are pleasant. The last category unfortunately is not overcrowded.

Scores of large photographs of actual scenes will give a comprehensive outline of all the conditions of child life in this city. There will be an almost continuous display of moving pictures in charge of the National Board of Censorship, many of the films being of a type never before shown in New York.

There will be several big musical programmes, the one on the opening night being furnished by a chorus of 1,000 children's voices. A week later, on the evening of January 25, a chorus of 500 voices and the orchestra from Public School 62 will provide the programme. On February 1 the chorus will be from The Bronx and the orchestra from the Morris High School. All the concerts are under the direction of Dr. Frank R. Rix, in charge of music in the public schools.

Thursday, January 19, will be girls' day with a programme beginning at 3:30 P. M. Groups of from twenty-five to fifty girls will show various games, story gymnastics, folk dances, formal class room work for correcting posture, athletic games, an organized recce, a two-minute setting up exercise, and so on. Boys' day will be January 24, the programme beginning at the same hour.

Saturday afternoon, February 11, there will be a play festival. Five hundred girls will play games, give folk dances and run relay races. There will also be half hour programmes at 3:30 P. M. on January 25, January 31, February 3, 7 and 10. On a date to be decided a pantomime play, "The Story of Father January and His Children," will be given by 125 children in costume. It will include four dances, "Spring," a dance from the

national reputation will speak at these meetings, among them Miss Jane Addams of Hull House, Chicago; Judge Ben Lindsey of Denver, Justice Hoyt of the Children's Court, Mrs. Florence Kelley, Miss Lillian D. Wald, Homer Folks, Supt. Maxwell of the public schools, Supreme Court Justice Page, heads of city departments and other prominent men and women.

From the picturesque point of view the most interesting matter is that which has been dug out by the committee on streets and the committee on recreation and amusements. Some of the work done by these two committees is bound to overlap, for most of the recreation of far more than half of New York's 1,000,000 children is snatched precariously from the tumult and danger of its street life. Some of the results of the thousands of inquiries made in all quarters of the city are almost incredible.

For instance one screen, as the eight foot high panels showing photographs and facts are called, graphically gives the children's own account of how they spend most of their time out of school. There are four tables summarizing the answers of the boys and the girls of the lower East Side and those of the upper West Side.

LOWER EAST SIDE.	
Boys.	Girls.
Standing around.	Eating.
Yelling.	Buying from carts.
Buying from carts.	Minding baby.
Chattering.	Jacking.

UPPER WEST SIDE.	
Boys.	Girls.
Standing around.	Standing around.
Playing with toys.	Minding baby.
Eating.	Playing with toys.
Playing rides.	Jacking.

Think of the thrilling life of a boy whose chief amusement is standing around or chattering! The fact that so many announce eating as their chief out of school occupation must not lead one to infer that these little tenement folks are continually gorging themselves. What it does mean is that a meal looms so big and important to them that they regard it as the supreme moment of their daily life. Inquiries made concerning the breakfasts of 1,400 school children showed the following result:

Those who had nothing at all.....	10
Tea or coffee only.....	17
Tea or coffee with bread or cake.....	655
Bread and water.....	8
Milk with bread or cereal.....	8
Cereal, meat or eggs.....	472
Total.....	1,400